

World of Words

After renouncing a successful career as a corporate lawyer to pursue his dream of becoming a writer, Thomas D. Gommès moved



WoW Gstaad: World of Words aims to unite people with a shared belief in the importance to modern society of literature – its goals are to encourage the creation and enjoyment of literature, to promote education, and to support the Saanenland community.

"It's more important than ever, in these difficult times, for society to support the Arts and Literature," says the WoW Gstaad founder. "It is these elements that make us human, provide succour, entertainment and, frankly, sanity when the whole world seems to be falling apart. At least since Boccaccio's 14th century masterpiece 'Il Decameron' humans have looked to literature as a unifier and comforter in times of crisis."

Although the return of large-scale gatherings has been thrown into question, Gommès is well on his way to launching Gstaad's first international literature symposium in June 2021. Five authors

to Gstaad and simultaneously conceived the idea of a literary festival. "It's all that's missing from our cultural landscape," he says.

and filmmakers will be invited to Gstaad for three days of presentations, meals, and discovery of the Saanenland. "We're very excited that some exceptional literary luminaries have already accepted our invitation, including the bestselling author of 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin', Louis de Bernières, and the award-winning author and screenwriter Eve de Castro."

In addition to the presenters, a limited in-person audience will attend, with all events and presentations also recorded and available for free on the WoW Gstaad website. "Gstaad is the perfect setting," says Gommès, highlighting Gstaad's literary history, tradition of cultural events, and breathtaking surroundings. "As we grow, our goal is to build up to a 200–300 person event that, in addition to being a joyous weekend, will raise funds to support young authors, educational programs, and the region's farmers, artisans, hotels, shops, and restaurants."

The inaugural WoW Gstaad: World of Words will take place 25–27 June 2021 and you can find out more at www.wowgstaad.com and on Instagram @wowgstaad



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